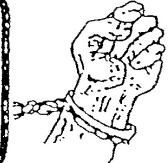




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



MARCH 18/2012

SALE OF WOMEN TO MODERN SLAVERY CONTINUED

A few days after the brutal death of domestic worker Alem Dechassa in Beirut (Lebanon)—she was beaten in broad daylight by her employer and later allegedly committed suicide in a hospital, the regime in Addis Abeba has revealed that it would send some 45,000 Ethiopian women to Saudi Arabia, a country notorious for mistreating domestic workers (and all women for that matter).

The Saudis and the Meles regime have claesced in duping the international community by claiming that the rights of the domestic workers will be respected, their wages increases and that they would even be given cell phones to contact their families and the (Meles).embassy. The Saudis need Ethiopian maids urgently because other countries have refused to allow their national to go work as maids in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and other Middle Eastern countries that have brutalized women workers, committed rape on them and murdered quit a few to harvest organs. Ethiopians have no protection and the agencies engaged in selling off the young women are almost all controlled by the ruling ethnic party. Thousands of Ethiopian women in Lebanon and other Middle Eastern countries have been abused for years without any protection and the recent videotaped daylight beating of Alem Dechassa in Beirut is but a tip of the iceberg.

SOCEPP condemns the ongoing sale of Ethiopian women to modern slavery in the Middle East and holds the inhumane regime of Meles Zenawi primarily responsible for this horrendous crime. SOCEPP calls once again on Middle Eastern human rights organizations to defend the human rights of the domestic workers in their countries.

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